

Talbot County Historic Preservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2015

Chair opened the meeting at 3:00 pm.

Four members present: Chairman Ward Bucher, Dorothy Mitchell, Marsha Kacher and Ron Mitchell; one guest, Cindy Schmidt; and two staff members: Martin Sokolich and Jeremy Rothwell.

Old Business:

Minutes

Move approval and second of the minutes. Carried unanimously.

Membership

Discussion ensued as to increasing membership on the HPC. Ron Mitchell was talked about as a possible candidate; he is a property appraiser with experience in historic preservation.

Site Visit Report:

No visits for the past month, and none are planned for the month of February.

Budget Request:

Martin described the proposed budget for FY2016. It was recommended that staff arrange for a meeting between Chair Bucher and the new Planning Director, Mary Kay Verdery, regarding the requested budget and staff requests for the HPC for HY 2016.

Recommended including funds in the FY2016 budget for highlighting the success of HPC and informing staff and elected officials.

Discussion ensued as to whether to increase the budget request for next year by 3,4,5% etc?
Motion to increase the budget by 5% (or \$300) to total \$6,300 total budget request. The \$300 extra expenses will go under "7900 Other Expenses" to help pay for a celebratory event with property owners. Motion seconded and carried unanimously.

Historic Property Assessment Project

Jeremy will look into writing a RFP for next month, and will contact the Center for Historic Architecture and Design at the University of Delaware.

Discussed ensued about the language from the Kent County Historic Preservation ordinance. HPC thinks this language is good for a start. Also check with head of Preservation Maryland about Frederick County, but also about other Eastern Shore Counties.

HPC reiterated that staff needs to inform the commission of all demolitions pending in the county.

Would like to have a summary of Eastern Shore Counties historic preservation ordinances no later than February 20th.

New Business:

Planning Staff Assignments

Discussion ensued as to whether staff should be writing the staff report for all site visits. Make a motion on behalf of the HPC for a staff member to attend all site visits, and to provide the site report. Motion amended to ensure that that staff also arrange for all staff visits. Motion seconded and carried unanimously.

The HPC discussed the possibility of setting a private meeting with Mary Kay Verdery to discuss the possibility of dedicating a portion of staff member to do site visits and write site reports.

Prospective New Historic District

Millers house will be a new HP overlay district out in Wye Mills. Property is almost two acres in size. The property owner received funding from MHT, and MHT has allowed the designation of the property into a local historic district in lieu of placing an easement on the said property. Still waiting for official letter from MHT. The process will be a partnership between Historic Easton, Preservation Maryland, and MHT.

Emerson Point Agricultural Structure

Motion for Emerson Point application to document and photograph the barns prior to their demolition. Discussed ensured as to the level of documentation that should be required for this project. Maryland Historic Building Inventory Form was recommended by Chair as the appropriate format. Jeremy will coordinate with the Chair to arrange a site visit to determine its historic significance.